



# CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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## WAXMAN TO FIGHT SOCIAL SECURITY CUT

One of the staunchest congressional supporters of senior citizens, Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-Los Angeles), has pledged to "fight every inch of the way" to prevent the Reagan Administration from reducing Social Security cost-of-living increases.

According to Waxman, a number of key figures in the new Administration have already expressed their intention of constructing a new index for calculating Social Security hikes. Waxman fears that gross tampering with the index could substantially reduce increases intended to help Social Security recipients keep up with inflation.

He said,

"Cost-of-living increases for those of Social Security should be made larger not smaller. The cost-of-living index is based on retail costs to consumers of every age. Living costs for older people are invariably higher. Living in small households of one or two people, seniors are usually forced to buy small containers in small quantities. Limited mobility prevents them from pursuing bargains in buying essentials like food and clothing."

"Most serious of all, Medicare now pays only about 1/3rd of the health care costs of older people. Such high-priced items as drugs and prescription glasses -- which almost all older people need -- must be paid for in full by the seniors."

Waxman said he thought vital programs such as Social Security should be the last place to make cuts, not the first.

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